

Commitment Weekend Ask Presentation (Sample)

Here at (Parish Name) and throughout our diocese there are some big changes coming this year.

One of them you have been hearing about the last few weeks is our new Catholic Ministry Appeal. We have shared information here at the parish, and you should have received a packet in the mail at home which includes a message from Bishop Parkes, as well as a brochure that provides information on which ministries, programs and outreach efforts to the new appeal will benefit from your donations.

In the past, we had APA, the Annual Pastoral Appeal, as the vehicle of funding the many charities of the Diocese as well as the administration of the Diocese. After listening to pastors and parishioners, Bishop Parkes wants to focus our efforts on Ministries that will make the most impact. Therefore, he is retiring the APA and introducing the **Catholic Ministry Appeal**. With this new appeal, 100% of our donations will go to focused ministry.

As your pastor, I want to let you know that I support this appeal and the hope it provides for both our parish and for those it helps bring closer to Christ.

This appeal provides the means to continue the mission that Christ has entrusted to us: to serve, to educate, to care for the poor, and to be a beacon of hope for all.

The **Catholic Ministry Appeal** is an invitation for us all to take an active role in supporting the Church beyond the borders of our parish. Through our appeal, we can support:

- 13,000 students and 1,300 educators in our 41 diocesan schools.
- 11,400 clients receiving 104,647 meals through Shelters of Hope and the Catholic Charities ministries of mercy.
- 75 retired priests who still provide services and support the faith life of parishioners in all 79 of our parishes and missions
- 12 men in formation for the Permanent Diaconate, as well as ongoing formation for our 115 active deacons and their wives
- protection for our children and vulnerable adults through the Safe Environment program which averages 5,000 fingerprint screenings and 7,500 trainings each year to diocesan, parish and school staff and volunteers
- virtual opportunities to participate in large celebrations like the Consecration to St. Joseph Prayer Service in 2021 which was viewed by 1,700 via livestream and 3,300 via YouTube

We are all invited to make a gift, a courageous gift, that demonstrates how as disciples we are living the gospel and sharing it with those we encounter. Now more than ever, it is vital for us to do what we can, when we can. To act as a people who put their faith in God and do good works in his name. I am asking you to make a commitment to the appeal today.

This appeal is based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving. I cannot know how this past year has affected every family, and therefore, I cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift. What I can do is ask is for all to pray and make a gift that is right for them. I know from personal experience that it is easier to make a gift of sacrifice if you can spread it out, rather than make a full, one-time gift. Can you consider a gift of \$25, \$40 or \$50 each month for the rest of this year? That amount will equal a commitment of \$250, \$400 or \$500 by the end of the year.

As you think about what you will give, remember, this gift is in addition to your offertory giving not in place of. Also, please know I know that everyone will do their very best to fulfill their commitments, and that is all we ask - that you do your best.

If last year taught us anything, we should know by now that unexpected things happen, and you may need to change your pledge. That's ok. If a change is needed, it can be made. And if that change is an increase, well, that is ok, too.

For those who have never given, it is vital to understand their participation matters. It is easy, when surrounded by so many people, to think that no one will notice if you don't participate. But each gift makes a difference, and it is noticed.

At this point, I ask everyone to make their commitment over the next few minutes.

For those of you who have already made a gift or pledge by sending in the commitment card that you received at home or by visiting the online giving page, I thank you for your generosity and your patience as we take a little time now to encourage others to participate.

If you did not bring your commitment card from home, please complete a commitment envelope found in your pew. Please fill in all the information on the envelope clearly. The envelope has a section with some options for 10 equal monthly payments or a one-time gift. For example, 10 monthly payments of \$30 equal a total pledge of \$300.

Once you decide on the amount you want to give, fill out the giving information on the bottom left of the envelope – the area marked “Total Pledge/Amount Enclosed/Balance Due.” Also indicate if you want to make payments monthly or annually, or as one-time gift to complete your “Balance Due.”

A down payment on your commitment is not necessary or required. If you are able to make one, please do. If you can't make a down payment, don't let that stop you from making your commitment.

I am going to pause to give those who haven't yet completed their commitment time to fill out their forms, while I do the same. (PAUSE AND FILL OUT AN ENVELOPE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR PARISHIONERS TO DO THE SAME.)

At this time, I ask the Hospitality Ministers/Ushers to pick up all pledge envelopes, including those cards received at home that have been brought in today (or have parishioners bring them to the altar).

Thank you once again for listening with an open heart.